Restructuring of the Planning Commission

*156. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission is being restructured and strengthened and if so, the details thereof and by when the changes are likely to be effected;

(b) whether any independent role is proposed to be assigned to the Planning Commission and whether the State and the District level planning is proposed to be monitored by the Commission; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to merge the Ministry of Programme Implementation with the Planning Commission, if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission makes an independent assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country for the purpose of planning for the most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources. As a part of this exercise, it does appraise from time to time the Progress achieved in the execution of plan schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

Payment of commission by West German Company in purchase of Torpedoes for Indian Navy

*157. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 7th February, 1988 to the effect that huge commission was collected by NGEF on the supply of torpedoes for the Indian Navy by the West German Company AEG through an agent and that the commission amount was nowhere shown in the accounts by the State-owned NGEF; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The news item which appeared in the Indian Express, New Delhi of 7th February, 1988 has come to the notice of Government.

(b) AEG of FRG have reported that while they have shareholding in NGEF Ltd., and various kinds of cooperation with the latter, the NGEF Limited were not involved in the Indian contracts relating to the acquisition of SSK Submarines.

Strengthening of Electronic Industry in the country

*158. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen the Electronic Industry in the country in view of its increased importance for Industrial growth; and

(b) what are the R&D efforts to strengthen the Electronic Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R NARAYANAN): (a) The specific policy measures taken recently to strengthen the electronic industry in the country are given in the attached Statement (*See* below).